

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

The present invention discloses a novel
secreted polypeptide, termed osteoprotegerin, which is
5 a member of the tumor necrosis factor receptor
superfamily and is involved in the regulation of bone
metabolism. Also disclosed are nucleic acids encoding
osteoprotegerin, polypeptides, recombinant vectors and
host cells for expression, antibodies which bind OPG,
10 and pharmaceutical compositions. The polypeptides are
used to treat bone diseases characterized by increased
resorption such as osteoporosis.